

REMARKS

I. Amendments

The specification has been amended to insert section headings, and to move the section entitled "Brief Description of the Figures" from the end of the specification to an earlier location.

Claims 1-17 have been amended to place the claims in conformance with U.S. patent practice. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the steps of the claimed invention. Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the amphiphilic surfactant is an anionic, cationic, or non-ionic surfactant. Amended claim 8 is supported by the specification at page 11, lines 4-5; and at page 12, lines 11-12. Claim 10 has been amended to more clearly recite that the amphiphilic surfactant is at a concentration below the critical association concentration for the amphiphilic surfactant and polymeric dispersant. Amended claim 10 is supported by the specification at page 13, lines 15-18. Claims 3, 4, 6, 10, and 13-17 have been amended to eliminate instances of an improper multiple claim dependency.

New claims 18-20 have been added. Claim 18 is directed to an embodiment of the invention deleted from amended claim 15. Claim 19 is directed to an embodiment of the invention supported by claims 1, 4, 7, and 14 as originally filed. Claim 20 is directed to an embodiment of the invention supported by claims 11 and 12 as originally filed. No new matter has been added by any amendment herein.

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-20 are pending.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a new patent application. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be due in connection with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: Jan. 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew Fessak, Reg. No. 48,528

White & Case LLP

Customer No. 07470

Direct Line: (212) 819-8437